

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Prevent Child Abuse California
Program Name: Child Welfare System Improvement

Application ID: 14AC157640

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

Strengths:

The applicant provides a compelling case for the need to address the high rates of child abuse and neglect in 14 California counties.

The applicant cites several recent studies describing the problem and its extent throughout the U.S., as well as in the specific counties to be served. In addition, they compare the rates of the counties to be served with statewide rates.

The applicant also provides data linking the rates of child abuse with life in high stress environments (i.e. poverty, violent crime, certain aspects of a military lifestyle, social isolation, etc.), and those lacking parenting skills and knowledge.

According to the applicant, there is no other program or service for the prevention of child abuse in the area to be served.

The applicant offers relevant data regarding the need within the designated communities.

The applicant cited data from reputable sources including the Center for Disease Control (CDC), a Princeton brief; and Kidsdata.org to substantiate community need.

The applicant presented data regarding strong support within the designated communities from other service agencies.

The applicant provides compelling data in support of the needs in the targeted areas and specific demographics of the need for the proposed project.

The applicant's data includes detailed empirical data of the needs of abused children and the detrimental effects they

experience in later life which includes health and social ramifications.

The applicant provides very clear evidence of the success of their program model in preventing child abuse in various communities, but also in the targeted communities in California.

The applicant provides a very clear and well-developed Theory of Change that links crisis intervention services and parenting education to the reduction of stress, an improvement in parenting skills, and ultimately the prevention of child abuse.

As members of the targeted community, AmeriCorps Members will be matched culturally and linguistically to their clients.

The applicant indicates a plan to use an evidence-based method to deliver services.

The applicant's narrative indicates a plan to match providers and recipients culturally and linguistically.

The applicant identified designated areas and population that would benefit from service program.

The applicant is the only state-wide agency that provides this service.

The applicant presented a well-designed logic model and supporting narrative that indicates a well-thought out program plan of services.

The applicant's data supports extensive research in the areas of child abuse and its related medical trauma in later years and is consistent throughout the logic model.

The applicant states that Prevent Child Abuse California has been in operation since 1999, and has extensive experience providing a variety of services to support the prevention of child abuse.

According to the applicant, there is no other program or service for the prevention of child abuse in the area to be served.

The applicant has received AmeriCorps funding for the past six years.

The applicant provides evidence of sustained, positive performance in preventing child abuse through recent outcome data (2011-2013) indicating high levels of change in those pre-assessed for a risk of child abuse.

The applicant is the only state-wide non-profit with an identified mission of preventing child abuse and neglect.

The applicant currently successfully coordinates services with 175 different agencies.

The applicant has been in operation since 1994.

The applicant's past performance indicates success in providing similar services to a similar population.

The applicant has compelling data that reflects its level of expertise managing AmeriCorps grants and reflects a logical relationship with outputs, inputs and outcomes in the proposed project.

The applicant's level of expertise is consistent throughout the narrative and builds on research and evidence in support of the proposed project to benefit the demography specified in the project.

Weaknesses:

The applicant's level of change is reflected in the logic model and builds a relationship with its outcomes, inputs and outputs in support of the activities to be delivered.

The applicant's outcomes show a decreased level of stress and its related risk factors upon participation in the proposed project.

The applicant has experience providing services for other federal programs however, does not have experience for this particular project.